## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are pending and correspond to non-elected claims 10-14 of co-pending application 09/866,766. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended. No new matter is added by any of these amendments. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Gerhard W. Thielman Registration No. 43,186

JAO:GWT/gwt

Date: December 8, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. Box 19928 Alexandria, Virginia 22320 Telephone: (703) 836-6400 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461